

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

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1. A method for transforming data in an input table in a database in a server in communication with a client, comprising;
- 2 receiving from the client a transform command indicating an input data table
- 3 name in the database and at least one rule indicating at least one cell in the input table to
- 4 transform and a transform operation to perform with respect to the at least one cell;
- 5 accessing a copy of the input table from the database; and
- 6 transforming, within the server, data in the accessed input table according to each
- 7 rule specified in the transform command.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the client is a client computer that
- 2 communicates with the server over a network, wherein the transform command is
- 3 transmitted from the client computer to the server over the network.
- 1 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the client is an application program
- 2 executing in the server.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the transform command rules specify
- 2 multiple transform operations to perform on at least one cell in the accessed input table,
- 3 wherein an application of a subsequent transform operation following a previous
- 4 transform operation on one cell transforms previously transformed data in the cell.
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5. The method of claim 1, further comprising writing the transformed input
- 2 table data to the database in the server after performing all transform operations specified
- 3 in the rules of the transform command against the accessed input table.

1 6. The method of claim 5, further comprising:
2 determining whether the transform command indicates an output table in the
3 database;
4 writing the transformed input table to the output table if the transform command
5 indicates the output table; and
6 updating the input table in the database with the transformed input table if the
7 transform command does not indicate one output table.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the client cannot affect the execution of
2 the transform command during the execution of the transform command, whereby the
3 transform command executes in the server independently of the client.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the transform command further comprises
2 multiple rules, wherein each rule specifies at least one column in the input table and at
3 least one transform operation to perform on each specified column in the input table,
4 wherein at least two rules specify different columns in the input table and different
5 transform operations to apply to each specified column.

1 9. A system for transforming data, comprising:
2 a client process;
3 a server including a database and an input table in communication with the client
4 process;
5 program logic implemented in the server, comprising:
6 (i) means for receiving from the client process a transform command
7 indicating an input data table name in the database and at least one rule indicating
8 at least one cell in the input table to transform and a transform operation to
9 perform with respect to the at least one cell;
10 (ii) means for accessing a copy of the input table from the database; and

11 (iii) means for transforming data in the accessed input table according to
12 each rule specified in the transform command.

1 10. The system of claim 9, wherein the client process executes in a client
2 computer that communicates with the server over a network, wherein the transform
3 command is transmitted from the client computer to the server over the network.

1 11. The system of claim 9, wherein the client process is an application
2 program executing in the server.

1 12. The system of claim 9, wherein the transform command rules specify
2 multiple transform operations to perform on at least one cell in the accessed input table,
3 wherein an application of a subsequent transform operation following a previous
4 transform operation on one cell transforms previously transformed data in the cell.

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1 13. The system of claim 9, wherein the program logic further comprises means
2 for writing the transformed input table data to the database in the server after performing
3 all transform operations specified in the rules of the transform command against the
4 accessed input table.

1 14. The system of claim 13, wherein the program logic further comprises:
2 means for determining whether the transform command indicates an output table
3 in the database;
4 means for writing the transformed input table to the output table if the transform
5 command indicates the output table; and
6 means for updating the input table in the database with the transformed input table
7 if the transform command does not indicate one output table.

1 15. The system of claim 9, wherein the client process cannot affect the
2 execution of the transform command during the execution of the transform command,
3 whereby the transform command executes in the server independently of the client
4 process.

1 16. The system of claim 9, wherein the transform command further comprises
2 multiple rules, wherein each rule specifies at least one column in the input table and at
3 least one transform operation to perform on each specified column in the input table,
4 wherein at least two rules specify different columns in the input table and different
5 transform operations to apply to each specified column.

1 17. An article of manufacture for use in transforming data in an input table in
2 a database, the article of manufacture comprising computer usable media including at
3 least one computer program embedded therein that causes the computer to perform:
4 receiving a transform command indicating an input data table name in the
5 database and at least one rule indicating at least one cell in the input table to transform
6 and a transform operation to perform with respect to the at least one cell;
7 accessing a copy of the input table from the database; and
8 transforming data in the accessed input table according to each rule specified in
9 the transform command.

1 18. The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the transform command
2 rules specify multiple transform operations to perform on at least one cell in the accessed
3 input table, wherein an application of a subsequent transform operation following a
4 previous transform operation on one cell transforms previously transformed data in the
5 cell.

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1 19. The article of manufacture of claim 17, further comprising writing the
2 transformed input table data to the database after performing all transform operations
3 specified in the rules of the transform command against the accessed input table.

1 20. The article of manufacture of claim 19, further comprising:
2 determining whether the transform command indicates an output table in the
3 database;
4 writing the transformed input table to the output table if the transform command
5 indicates the output table; and
6 updating the input table in the database with the transformed input table if the
7 transform command does not indicate one output table.

1 21. The article of manufacture of claim 17, wherein the transform command
2 further comprises multiple rules, wherein each rule specifies at least one column in the
3 input table and at least one transform operation to perform on each specified column in
4 the input table, wherein at least two rules specify different columns in the input table and
5 different transform operations to apply to each specified column.

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2 22. A memory device including a command for performing a transform
3 operation on a computer database input table, the command comprising
4 an input data table name parameter indicating the input table subject to the
5 transform operation; and
6 at least one rule indicating at least one cell in the input table to transform and a
7 transform operation to perform with respect to the at least one cell, wherein the transform
8 command is executed to access a copy of the input table from the database and
9 transforming data in the accessed input table according to each rule specified in the
transform command.

1 23. The memory of claim 22, wherein the transform command rules specify
2 multiple transform operations to perform on at least one cell in the accessed input table,
3 wherein an application of a subsequent transform operation following a previous
4 transform operation on one cell transforms previously transformed data in the cell.

1 24. The memory of claim 22, wherein the transform command is capable of
2 indicating an output table in the database, wherein the transformed input table is written
3 to the output table if the transform command indicates the output table, and
4 wherein the input table in the database is updated with the transformed input table if the
5 transform command does not indicate one output table.

1 25. The memory of claim 22, wherein the transform command further
2 comprises multiple rules, wherein each rule specifies at least one column in the input
3 table and at least one transform operation to perform on each specified column in the
4 input table, wherein at least two rules specify different columns in the input table and
5 different transform operations to apply to each specified column.

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